

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00871 011737Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 /090 W
-----124706 011739Z /50

O R 011711Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7205
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
473# -/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 411

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 871

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA; BOTHA NERVOUS ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES

REF: CAPE TOWN 870

DURING HIS MAY 1 TALKS WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR SIR DAVID SCOTT
ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SAG APPEARANCE AT THE UNGA SESSION
(SEPTEL), FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA REFLECTED A NERVOUSNESS THAT
THE FIVE MIGHT MAKE SOME UNDERTAKINGS OR CLARIFICATIONS TO
NUJOMA AMOUNTING TO A CHANGE IN THEIR PROPOSAL. HE SAID HE HAD
RECEIVED SOME REPORTS FROM NEW YORK INDICATING THAT THIS WAS
A POSSIBILITY. SCOTT TOLD HIM THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NOTHING
OF THE SORT WAS IN THE OFFING. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY
THE FIVE WILL HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT WALVIS BAY AT SOME
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POINT IN THE CONTEXT OF SWAPO ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL.
IN RESPONSE, BOTHA SAID THAT WHATEVER WE SAY SHOULD BE COUCHED
IN THE "MOST CAREFUL WAY" IN LIGHT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S
INTENSE FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT.

2. IN EXPRESSING HIS CONCERNS, BOTHA MAY HAVE HAD IN MIND
THE "CAPE TIMES" REPORT TODAY (MAY 1) THAT "TENTATIVE WORDING

HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR A SPECIAL WESTERN POWERS DELCARATION
BACKING A FUTURE INDEPENDENT NAMIBIAN GOVT'S CLAIMS TO
WALVIS BAY." THE REPORT STATED THAT THE DECLARATION HAD BEEN
SEEN BY SWAPO WHICH "CRITICIZED APPARENT EMPHASIS ON GEOGRAPHICAL
AND ECONOMIC RATHER THAN POLITICAL ARGUMENTS."

3. COMMENT: THOUGH SCOTT NOTED BOTHA SEEMED TO BE RESTRAINING
HIMSELF DURING THEIR CONVERSATION TODAY, IT APPEARS FROM
THE TENOR AND CONTENT OF HIS REMARKS THAT A CAUTIOUSLY DRAFTED
STATEMENT BY THE FIVE ON WALVIS BAY COULD BE TOLERABLE
TO SOUTH AFRICA. AS REPORTED BY THE CAPE TOWN FIVE (CAPE
TOWN 851). BOTHA'S MAIN CRITERIA WOULD PROBABLY BE:
AVOIDANCE OF A CHALLENGE TO THE SAG'S LEGAL POSITION ON
WALVIS BAY AND NO IMPLICATIONS THAT SUCH STATEMENT FORMS
PART OF THE PROPOSAL.
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